

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Page 2 of the Office Action sets forth a rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the claims and for making suggestions for correcting various antecedent basis and grammatical informalities in the claims.

It appears that the comments in the Office Action may perhaps have been based on the claims as submitted in the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 10, 2002, rather than on the claims as amended in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on June 5, 2002.

The amendments to Claims 1, 7, and 16 submitted on June 5, 2002 have corrected several of the informalities identified in the Office Action. The scope of the claims as set forth in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment are believed to be readily understandable by one of ordinary skill in the art, in light of the Substitute Specification also submitted on June 5, 2002. Nonetheless, the claims have also been amended to adopt the helpful suggestions of the Examiner set forth at pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. It is noted that Claim 5 has not been amended to replace “vessel” with “underwater vehicle”, as the seaborne position marker set forth in Claim 5 is located on a vessel other than the underwater vehicle.

The claims have also been amended in minor ways to correct minor informalities noted during a review of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Page 2 of the Office Action also sets forth a rejection of independent Claims 1-16 as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Office Action observes that the specification is "more like a thesis or technical report".

It appears that the comments regarding the specification may have been based on the specification as originally submitted, rather than on the Substitute Specification submitted by the Applicants on June 5, 2002. While the Applicants would be pleased to consider any specific comments or concerns the Examiner may have regarding the claims or the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are fully enabled by the Substitute Specification. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is therefore respectfully requested.

Page 2 of the Office Action further requested that the support for Figures 5-7 be provided. Support is found at least at pages 4 -6 of the Substitute Specification.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, is therefore respectfully requested.

All of the outstanding matters having been addressed, Applicants request an early indication of the allowability of the application, in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should any questions arise with regard to this Response, or with regard to the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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The accompanying fee transmittal sheet authorizes the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0281 for the fee for a two-month extension of time. Kindly charge any other fee which may be due, or credit overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally A. Ferrett Reg. No. 46,325
for John J. Karasek
Reg. No. 36,182
Associate Counsel (IP)
U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
4555 Overlook Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20375
(202) 404-1552

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Prepared by: Sally A. Ferrett
Reg. No. 46,325
Telephone: 202-404-1551